

INTERNATIONAL NEWS SERVICE

H-BOMB

BY BUCK BUCHWACH
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HONOLULU, JUNE 18--(INS)--TWO TOP U.S. OFFICIALS WERE ON A HUSH-HUSH VISIT TO THE ENIWETOK NUCLEAR PROVING GROUNDS TODAY AS SECURITY AGENTS SOUGHT TO TRACK DOWN A MAJOR SECURITY BREACH ON LAST MONTH'S AERIAL HYDROGEN BOMB DROP.

ADM. LEWIS L. STRAUSS, CHAIRMAN OF THE U.S. ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, LEFT HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE LATE YESTERDAY FOR ENIWETOK IN COMPANY WITH ALLEN DULLES, CHIEF OF THE SUPER SECRET CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.

DURING THEIR 12-HOUR STAY IN HAWAII BOTH MEN SECLUDED THEMSELVES AT THE GUEST HOUSE OF PACIFIC FLEET COMMANDER ADM. FELIX B. STUMP AND WERE UNAVAILABLE TO NEWSMEN.

MEANWHILE, A SPOKESMAN FOR THE FBI, WAS NON-COMMITAL ON PUBLISHED REPORTS THAT SECURITY AGENCIES WERE "CLOSING IN" ON THE SERVICEMAN OR SERVICEMEN RESPONSIBLE FOR LEAKS ABOUT THE MAY 21 HYDROGEN BOMB HAVING MISSED ITS NAMU ISLAND TARGET. THE FBI SPOKESMAN SAID:

"WE ARE INTERESTED IN ANY POSSIBLE SECURITY VIOLATIONS WHICH INVOLVE THE ATOMIC ENERGY ACT, WHICH WE ARE OBLIGATED TO ENFORCE."

THE HONOLULU ADVERTISER SAID AUTHORITIES HAD PINPOINTED SUSPECTS WHOSE CONVERSATION WITH A NIGHTCLUB COLUMNIST FOR A RIVAL NEWSPAPER LAST WEEK LED INDIRECTLY TO A DISCLOSURE BY AIR FORCE SECRETARY DONALD QUARLES THAT THE H-BOMB DROPPED MAY 21 HAD MISSED BY "LESS THAN FOUR MILES."

THE FBI AND MILITARY COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AGENTS WERE SAID TO HAVE TRACED THE SOURCE OF THE LEAK TO A GROUP OF MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO STAYED AT A SMALL WAIKIKI HOTEL ON A REST AND RECREATION FURLOUGH.

THE ADVERTISER SAID AUTHORITIES WERE INVESTIGATING WHETHER ANY OF THE MEN HAD BEEN INTOXICATED WHEN THEY TALKED TO A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN, WHICH PRINTED A STATEMENT THE MAY 21 H-BOMB HAD BEEN SEVEN MILES OFF TARGET AND HAD BLINDED TWO OBSERVERS.

AUTHORITIES WERE REPRESENTED AS BEING "FAR MORE CONCERNED WITH THE FACT THAT (THE STAR-BULLETIN'S INFORMANT) TALKED AT ALL THAN WITH THE MIXTURE OF FACT AND SCUTTLEBUTT DISPENSED."

THEY WERE QUOTED AS SAYING FURTHER THAT THE POTENTIAL DANGERS OF SECURITY LEAKS FROM THE MID-PACIFIC NUCLEAR PROVING GROUND "MAKE THIS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN JUST FINDING OUT WHO COMMITTED A GOSSIPY INDISCRETION."

STRAUSS, AND DULLES, TRIP TO ENIWETOK FOLLOWED BY A WEEK A SIMILARLY UNHERALDED VISIT BY DEFENSE SECRETARY CHARLES E. WILSON. THERE HAS BEEN NEITHER CONFIRMATION OR DENIAL FROM OFFICIAL SOURCES THAT FURTHER H-BOMB BLASTS HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE DETONATED FOLLOWING THE "CHEROKEE" DROP OF MAY 21 WITNESSED BY NEWSMEN AND CIVILIAN DEFENSE OFFICIALS. JVL/ldPD...